



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

PO BOX 202501
HELENA MT 59620-2501
www.opi.mt.gov
(406) 444-3095
(888) 231-9393
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)

Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

THINK FOOD

School Nutrition Programs

August 2006



GOT COMMODITIES?

LEFT OVER COMMODITIES

AVAILABLE: Enclosed in this mailing is a list of additional commodities that are available throughout the 2006-07 school year. To order additional items please use a Commodity Request form available at www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood.html. Fax your request to OPI School Nutrition at (406) 444-2955. The deadline for ordering these items is 10 days prior to the scheduled shipment date.

NOTE:

Items that are not bonus items will be charged against your entitlement.

CARRY-OVER OF COMMODITIES: BEST WHEN FRESH

Ideally, it is best to serve food at its freshest, including commodities. If you stored food through the summer be sure to use it during the first few months of school.

NEW COMMODITIES AVAILABLE THIS YEAR

Beef Crumbles W/SPP and Red Kidney Beans, Cnd are two new items that are available this year. Schools that tried the Beef Crumbles last year were surveyed and the Crumbles received high marks for flavor and convenience.

The Red Kidney Beans ranked highest among the new beans that are available on your commodity order form.

There are still plenty of both the Beef Crumbles and the Kidney Beans available. Use the Commodity Request form to place orders for these new items.



"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."

CALCULATING YOUR COMMODITY DOLLARS

The Planned Assistance Level (PAL) represents the dollar value of USDA commodities your school is eligible to receive during the school year.

PAL is calculated by taking your Average Daily Meals (ADM) from the 2005-06 school year times the per-meal value of donated food assistance for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The per-meal value is published each year by the USDA. The 2006-07 School Year is 0.1675 cents per meal.

An updated PAL list is now available on the OPI Web site. You can also find your entitlement total on the Notice of Shipment you receive prior to each delivery.



HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT COMMODITIES?

Get the Facts - The USDA has a fact sheet available for every commodity item. The sheets contain information about yield, storage, uses, pack size and preparation as well as nutrition facts. The fact sheets are easily accessed from the School Nutrition/Food Distribution portion of the OPI Web site. ➡

GOOD NEWS - 12 PERCENT PROVISION KICKS IN!

Section 6(e) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires, not less than 12 percent of all federal food assistance in the NSLP be provided in the form of commodities in each school year.

The 12 percent requirement was not met for the 2005-06 school year (July 1, 2005 - June 1, 2006). The shortfall equals \$86 million.

What does that mean for Montana Schools? We will receive approximately \$200,000 in additional commodity dollars. This has already been updated and is included in your Planned Assistance Level (PAL) total for the 2006-07 school year.

Forms and other important information regarding Montana School Nutrition Programs can be found on the web page www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/index.html